

GALERIE KRINZINGER SEILERSTÄTTE 16 1010 WIEN
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JANNIS VARELAS
A DUCK AND A CRUTCH

Opening and Performance: October 14 , 2016, 7 pm
Duration: October 15 – November 19, 2016
Jannis Varelas will be present at the opening.

“ How do you know that you’ve raised your arm?” - “I feel it.” “So what you recognize is the feeling? And are you certain that you recognize it right? You’re certain that you raised your arm; isn’t this the criterion, the measure, of recognizing?”

Ludwig Wittgenstein, Philosophical investigations §625

A Duck and a Crutch is an exhibition organized in three main parts that define a path through space and time.

The first part is based upon reality as we know it today in Europe. Encompassing painting, sculpture and performance, it deals with the lack of trust, the lack of leadership and the structural inability to sustain emancipation, happiness and morality. A dominant painting in the room works as a landscape or even a window; it offers glimpses of agony but also hope. This central piece provides the background for the performance *Bingo Players*, the ultimate enactment of the aphasic status of men in power, focusing into their lack of innovation in decision making process and highlighting the purity of their confusion. The set up is surrounded by stuffed snakes made out of fabric and other works that read as plot managing elements in a set of different conditions.

An ongoing action marks the second part of the show *duck and a Crutch* In a different set up, a pear, a strawberry and a cupcake are playacted by three performers who are continuously drawing their portraits. In a tormenting monologue, each character is drowned in his own oblivion and struggles for self awareness. Among them, the artist’s own portrait stands as a carcass of authority.

Four large format paintings mark the third and final part. Through anthropomorphic depictions, they bring back the concept of the archetype as it has been explored in previous works.

A Duck and a Crutch is a show developed and realized within the last year, while traveling in between the States and Europe. Through this swift, objective reality and personal narratives mingle into a metaphor and several juxtapositions.

Jannis Varelas, Vienna, October 2016

Jannis Varelas was born in 1977 in Athens, Greece lives and works Los Angeles, Athens and Vienna

Selection of solo exhibitions: Common People – James Fuentes LLC, New York City, NY (2016), New Flags for A New Country / Destroying Elvis, Onassis Cultural Center, Athens (2016), Solo Show (with Hugo Canoilas), Franz Josefs Kai 3, Vienna, Austria (2014), Sleep My Little Sheep Sleep, Contemporary Arts Center of Cincinnati, US (2012), The Oblong Box. Kunsthalle Athena, Athens, GR (2011)

Selection of group exhibitions: Fireflies in the Night Take Wings, curated by Robert Storr, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Cultural Center, Athens, GR, (2016), Ametria, curated by Roberto Cuoghi, DESTE Foundation and Benaki Museum, Athens, GR (2015), Hort Family Collection, New York, US (2015), Old News (Again) - Cneai, Chatou (2015), Parallel Vienna 2015 - Parallel Vienna, Vienna, AT (2015), Eye Know, curated by Amir Shariat, Hochhaus Herrengasse, Vienna, AT (2014), Painting III (2000-2015) - Frissiras Museum, Athen, GR (2014), Beyond The Process - Werke Aus Der Sammlung Lenikus - Kunstraum Innsbruck, Innsbruck, AT (2014), “See What Sees You”, curated by Franz Graf, 21er Haus, Vienna, AT (2014), Hell As Pavillion, curated by Nadia Argyropoulou Palais de Tokyo, Paris, FR (2013), Jackal, curated by Max Henry, Patricia Low Contemporary at NADA, NY, US (2013), The

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Power of Paper, works from the Saatchi Collection, Saatchi Gallery, London US (2013), 12th Cairo Biennial, Cairo. EGY (2010), The Marathon Marathon, curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist & Nadia Argyropoulou, Acropolis Museum, Athens, GR, (2010), Skin Fruit: Selections from the Dakis Joannou Collection. New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York City, US (2010), Lebt und Arbeitet in Wien III – Stars in a Plastic Bag. Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, AT (2010), Prospect.1 New Orleans, 1st International Art Biennial in the city of New Orleans, curated by Dan Cameron. New Orleans, US (2008), Resemblance Some How, Benakis Museum, Athens, GR (2004)

Shows at Gallery Krinzinger/Krinzinger Projekte: Jannis Varelas - A Duck and a Crutch, Galerie Krinzinger 2016, (solo), Brown Box and the Broken Theater, Galerie Krinzinger 2012, (solo), Aktualität eines Mediums. Nader Ahriman bis Chen Zhen. Galerie Krinzinger 2010, (group), ARTISTS OF THE GALLERY _ A SPECIAL SELECTION. Galerie Krinzinger 2009 (group), Art Forum Berlin 2007, Krinzinger Projekte, Berlin 2007 (solo), Man on the Moon. Krinzinger Projekte 2007 (solo),